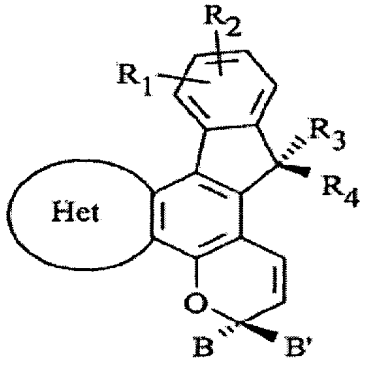
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (New) A photochromic indenochromene compound corresponding to formula (II):



(II)

wherein

R_1 and R_2 represent radicals independently selected from the group A, consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkoxy, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl which may include one or more heteroatoms, (C_1-C_6)-acyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted phenyl, and unsubstituted or monosubstituted benzyl, wherein the phenyl or benzyl substituents are selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)-alkyl and (C_1-C_6)-alkoxy; or

R_1 and R_2 together represent an annellated, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted benzo or pyrido ring wherein the ring substituents are selected from group A;

R_3 represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, and –OM, wherein M is a substituent selected from group A;

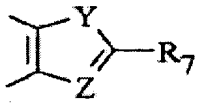
R_4 is a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkoxy, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)-acyl; unsubstituted, monosubstituted, disubstituted or trisubstituted

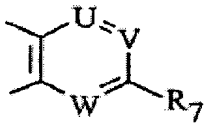
phenyl, benzyl, naphthyl, phenanthryl, pyrenyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, benzofuranyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, dibenzofuranyl, dibenzothienyl, carbazolyl and indolyl, wherein the substituents are selected from group A; (C_1-C_6)-4-phenylalkyl and (C_1-C_6)-4-phenoxyalkyl, wherein the phenyl ring in 4-position in turn may be part of an additional photochromic pyran system; or

R_3 and R_4 together with the spiro carbon atom represent a

saturated and/or unsaturated ring with 5 to 8 carbon atoms, of which at most one may be substituted by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, S and NR_5, wherein R_5 is selected from group A, and wherein at least one aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system selected from group E consisting of benzene, naphthalene, phenanthrene, pyridine, quinoline, furan, thiophene, pyrrole, benzofuran, benzothiophene, indole and carbazole, is annellated to the ring, wherein said ring system may have one or more substituents selected from group A;

the annellated ring (Het) represents a 5 or 6-member heteroaromatic ring corresponding to one of the following formulas:





wherein

Y is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and NR_5, and

Z, U, V and W are each independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen and CR_6, wherein R_6 and R_7 represent substituents independently selected from group A, or

R_6 and R_7 if they are ortho to one another together represent an unsubstituted or monosubstituted benzene ring wherein the ring substituents are independently selected from group A; and

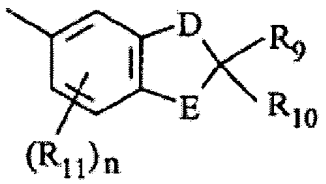
B and B' are each independently selected from the following groups a), b), c) or d); wherein

group a) consists of monosubstituted, disubstituted and trisubstituted aryl selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl;

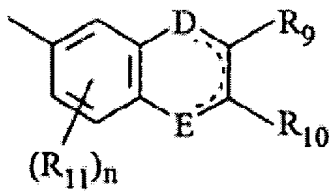
group b) consists of unsubstituted, monosubstituted and disubstituted heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, benzofuran-2-yl, benzofuran-3-yl, thien-2-yl, thien-3-yl, benzothien-2-yl, benzothien-3-yl, phenazinyl, phenoxazinyl, phenothiazinyl and julolidinyl;

wherein the substituents of the aryl or heteroaryl in groups a) and b) are selected from the group consisting of the above-defined group A, amino, mono-(C_1-C_6)-alkylamino, di-(C_1-C_6)-alkylamino, monophenylamino and diphenylamino unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted on the phenyl rings, wherein the phenyl ring substituents in turn are selected from group A, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, phenazinyl, phenoxazinyl, phenothiazinyl, carbazolyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted and disubstituted pyrryl, wherein the pyrryl substituents are selected from group A,

group c) consists of structural units with the following structural formulas (B) and (C):



(B)



(C)

wherein

D and E are independently selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, carbon or NR_8;

R_8, R_9, R_{10} and R_{11} are each independently selected from the group A; and

n is 1, 2, or 3;

provided that if D represents NR_8 in formula (B), E represents carbon,

or

d) B and B' together form an unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted fluorene-9-ylidene group or a saturated hydrocarbon group,

which is C_3-C_{12} spiro monocyclic, C_7-C_{12} spiro bicyclic or C_7-C_{12} spiro tricyclic, wherein the fluorene substituents are selected from group A.

9. (New) A photochromic indenochromene compound according to claim 8, wherein the annellated heterocycle (Het) is selected from the group consisting of indole, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, thienyl, furyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl and triazinyl.

10. (New) A photochromic indenochromene compound according to claim 8, wherein B and B' are each independently selected from monosubstituted, disubstituted or trisubstituted phenyl groups, wherein the phenyl group substituents are selected from the group consisting of group A, amino, mono-(C_1-C_6)-alkylamino, di-(C_1-C_6)-alkylamino, monophenyl- and diphenylamino unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted on the phenyl ring; wherein the phenyl ring substituents in turn are selected from group A, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, phenazinyl, phenoxazinyl, phenothiazinyl, carbazolyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted and disubstituted pyrryl, wherein the pyrryl substituents are selected from group A.

11. (New) A photochromic indenochromene compound according to claim 8, wherein B and B' each independently represent a julolidinyl group.

12. (New) A photochromic indenochromene compound according to claim 8, selected from the group consisting of

2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-2,14-dihydro-[1]benzofuro[2,3-f]indeno[1,2-h] chromene,

2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,14-dihydro-[1]benzofuro[2,3-f]indeno-[1,2-h] chromene,

2-(2-flurophenyl)-2-(4-(4-morpholinyl)phenyl)-2,14-dihydro-[1]benzofuro[2,3-f]-indeno-[1,2-h] chromene,

2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-2,14-dihydro-[1]benzothieno[3,2-f]indeno[1,2-h] chromene,

2-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-2,14-dihydro-[1]benzothieno[3,2-f]indeno-[1,2-h] chromene,
2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,14-dihydro-[1]benzothieno[3,2-f]indeno[1,2-h] chromene
2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-2,12-dihydroindeno[1,2-h]thieno[2,3-f] chromene
2-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-2-phenyl-9-methyl-2,9-dihydro-14H-indeno[1,2-h]indolo-[3,2-f] chromene, and
spiro-9-fluorene-12'-[3,3-diphenyl-3,12-dihydroindeno[2,1-f]-thieno[2,3-h] chromene.

13. A photochromic article comprising a synthetic resin body and at least one photochromic indenochromene compound according to claim 8.

14. A photochromic article according to claim 13, wherein said synthetic resin body is an opthalmic lens.